

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical connector for connection to a mating connector comprising:
a substrate supporting a contact for making electrical connection with a corresponding contact on the mating connector,
wherein the contact of the electrical connector is a collapsible, resiliently deformable hollow projection.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

The present Amendment amends claim 1 and leaves claims 2-16 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-16.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title as not being descriptive. The title of the invention was changed to "ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR HAVING A CONTACT WHICH IS A COLLAPSIBLE RESILIENTLY DEFORMABLE HOLLOW PROJECTION" which Applicants submit is descriptive of the present invention. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Selvin (U.S. Patent No. 4,116,517); claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selvin; claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under

35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selvin in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 4,050,756); and claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selvin in view of Applicants' alleged admitted prior art. These rejections are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as recited in claims 1-16 are not taught or suggested by Selvin, Moore or Applicants' alleged admitted prior art whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims in order to clarify the description of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to clarify that, for example, as illustrated in Figs. 3B, 4 and 5, the present invention provides an electrical connector for connection to a mating connector having a substrate supporting a contact for making electrical connection with a corresponding contact on the mating connector. According to the present invention as illustrated in Fig. 3B the contact 330 of the electrical connector is a collapsible, resiliently deformable hollow projection. As discussed on page 7, lines 9-15 of the present application the hollow nature of the contact 330 provides the resilience needed to ensure that a reliable electrical connection is maintained. Further, as discussed on page 9, lines 25-32 since the contacts are resilient, deformable hollow projections, they are collapsible so as to add negligible thickness to an apparatus to which the electrical connector is attached.

The above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Selvin, Moore and

Applicants' alleged admitted prior art whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Selvin teaches a flexible printed circuit which can be electrically connected to a printed circuit board without the use of intermediate conducting contact elements. Selvin teaches the use of circular conductive pads 18 having upwardly extending contact projections 22 in the center of the pads 18. In Selvin, cavities 24 formed under the upwardly extending contact projections 22 are filled with a layer 26 of elastomeric material having protruding integral points 28 which extend into the cavities 24 formed by the upwardly extending contact projections 22.

Selvin specifically describes that the protruding integral points 28 are shaped so that when the elastomeric layer 26 is compressed, the points will tend to fill the cavities 24 under the load so as to apply an opposing force to the back of the upwardly extending contact projections 22. Thus, the upwardly extending contact points are not allowed to collapse.

Therefore, Selvin teaches a structure that operates entirely different from that of the present invention as now recited in the claims. Particularly, Selvin does not teach or suggest that the contact is a resiliently deformable hollow projection as recited in the claims. As per the above in Selvin the cavities 24 under the upwardly extending contact projections 22 are filled by the protruding integral points 28 of the elastomeric layer 26. Most importantly, Selvin does not teach or suggest that the upwardly extending contact projections 22 are collapsible as recited in the claims. As per the above in Selvin the protruding integral points 28 of the elastomeric layer

26 under the upwardly extending contact projections 22 work against the collapsibility of the upwardly extending contact projections 22.

Accordingly, Selvin fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims.

The above noted deficiencies of Selvin are not supplied by Moore or Applicants' alleged admitted prior art. Therefore, combining the teachings of Selvin with either one of Moore or Applicants' alleged admitted prior art still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims.

Moore is merely relied upon for an alleged teaching of a substrate with contacts on opposing sides of the substrate. Thus, Moore does not supply the deficiencies noted above with respect to Selvin, namely that the electrical contact is a collapsible, resiliently deformable hollow projection as now recited in the claims.

Therefore, combining the teachings of Selvin and Moore still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims.

Applicants' alleged admitted prior art is relied upon for an alleged teaching of the use of connectors in a SIM/smart card for a telephone. This alleged teaching of Applicants' alleged admitted prior art does not supply the deficiencies noted above with respect to Selvin, namely that the electrical contact is a collapsible, resiliently deformable hollow projection as now recited in the claims.

Therefore, combining the teachings of Selvin with Applicants' alleged admitted prior art still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in claims 1-16 are not taught or suggested by Selvin whether taken individually or in combination with Moore or Applicants' alleged admitted prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above noted rejections of the claims under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (367.40946X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 312-6600

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical connector for connection to a mating connector comprising:

a substrate supporting a contact for making electrical connection with a corresponding contact on the mating ~~part~~ connector,

wherein the contact of the electrical connector is a collapsible, resiliently deformable hollow projection.